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20 July 1953

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: AD HOC Meeting Between Communications and TSS Concerning Joint Interests in R&D Programming

1. A meeting was held in the OC Conference Room on 1 July for the purpose of reviewing the TSS and OC R&D programs in order to clarify understanding and responsibility in those fields where joint interest has developed.

[redacted] attended for TSS while OC was represented by [redacted]

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2. [redacted] as Chairman, OC R&D Board, introduced three fields in which it would appear that TSS and OC had joint interest in their respective R&D programs. These three fields were: 1) infra-red, 2) navigational aids, and 3) site locator devices.

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3. In discussions concerning the IR field, it was indicated that TSS currently has a contract [redacted] of a very broad nature pointed toward the development of several operational uses for infra-red. Embodied in the contract, however, is the development of a voice modulated (Communications) device for covert use and for a range of 5-20 miles. Since this extensive contract is currently in force and further since the Communications IR device is but one of the equipments being developed under the contract, it was agreed that OC would monitor and assist TSS in the development of operational characteristics for the IR Communications device only. Since OC (R&D Branch) has already developed a set of operational characteristics for an IR Communications device, this set of characteristics will be made available to TSS. Upon completion of the [redacted] contract and presumably the satisfaction of the development phase of the IR Communications device, it was recommended that OC take over procurement and administration of operational techniques for the IR Communications device.

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4. In the navigational aid field, it was determined that the only current area of joint activity was of a site locator nature. The TSS developed electronic control and switching device has such wide application that it has been confused by the customers as being an end-product rather than a means to an end. By adding associated equipment to the electronic switch device equipment can be used for site locator purposes but on the basis that the electronic switch is a control mechanism rather than a communicating and site locator device. It was the consensus that there was no conflict in the basic agreement that OC was charged with primary responsibility for the development and procurement of equipment primarily designed for communicating purposes. Since Communications is a major requirement in most radio frequency site locator systems to date, it would appear that this field is primarily OC responsibility.

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-2-

5. During the course of discussions, it was the consensus that TSS and OC should continue to encourage the informal and continuing liaison existing between the engineers of the two activities. Coordination at the working level with referral to higher echelons on policy of a joint aspect will serve in a practical way to avoid duplicatory efforts. In addition to the informal liaison currently extant, it was agreed that mutual representation in the planning stages of Research and Development in OC and in TSS should be effected. This is of course particularly true in those fields of R&D in which there is any possibility for confusion as to responsibility or duplication of effort. It was pointed out that in the past the customers would often lodge the same requirement request with both OC and TSS. Obviously TSS and OC must operate in close coordination in order to avoid duplication engendered by such requests. Further, a long agreed responsibility line existing between OC and TSS in the matter of R&D should be publicized in official form for the benefit of the customers. By mutual agreement, it was determined in 1951 that if a device was intended for Communications purposes or if a communicating feature was a principal requirement in a device, development would be vested in the Office of Communications. Despite the apparent simplicity of this policy statement, it is apparent that duplication or apparent duplication can exist in the R&D programs of the two components as a result of the very general nature of the TSS field of responsibility. Examples of this overlap are found in the [] contract with TSS and in such matters as SARAH []. Inevitably, close and continuing liaison between OC and TSS is required at both a working and a policy level.

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